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The Sovereignty of the States: An Oration. Addressed to the Survivors of the Eighth Virginia Regiment, July 21, 1910. By Walter Neale. The Neale Publishing Co., New York. pp. 143.

The Betrayal. A novel by Walter Neale and Elizabeth H. Hancock. The Neale Publishing Co., New York. pp. 500.

Of the two volumes above, the latter is a readable novel of the class made popular recently by Thomas Dixon, Jr., and his followers; a reconstruction novel from the Southern standpoint of "a Rebel who never surrenders"—we use the word Rebel notwithstanding our author's rejection of it. But this book goes beyond most of the works of its kind, for the purpose with which it was written is so ever-present to the author, that he can scarcely mention any phase of post-bellum civilization without digressing for a moment to denounce it in clarion tones. Witness the references to the University of Virginia, the State government of to-day, the modern Democratic party, the modern stage, and the like. We would object to the artificial division of Virginians into peasants and yeomen, but will let that pass. As the object of this book is more clearly defined in the former book, let us look at that.

This "oration" cannot be distinguished appreciably from that pleasant occupation of "waving the bloody shirt" to which some of our Northern friends were for a long time addicted, but which now seems to have passed entirely out of favor. For it is a call to battle, addressed to the survivors and descendants of the "men in gray," urging them "to take up the arms that were laid down at Appomattox," "for the hardest of the fighting is yet to be done." The author's rallying cry is directed against the centralization movement, which is making of these states a nation, rather than a Union. At times it seems as if he is urging his fellow laborers simply to fight in Virginia against the passage of the income-tax amendment to the Constitution, which he has rather illogically concluded will mean "the surrender of the last vestige of liberty by the States"; at other times his purpose would seem to be to arm every person loyal to his views, and march out in battle array, and wait for the attack of an enemy which he does not clearly see himself, and cannot explain to us. And although there is oratorical license as well as poetic license, we submit that such attacks as these upon John Marshall, the Constitution, the Revolutionary army, and most important of all, the present attitude of real

friendliness throughout the whole country, and particularly of the North for the South, are uncalled for and misleading, and show unquestionably that the author's bias will tinge all things, both the good and the bad.

And yet, this work—or these works, serve a good purpose. Any book that is not entirely in the beaten path, but stirs up a new train of thought in its readers, has some measure of good in it. Any work that holds up modern life and points out only the bad places, and paints many of those much too black, will tend to make its readers mentally rally to the defense of their civilization, and observe its good points, and after discriminatingly studying the faults, be more anxious to correct them. And then, besides, the book is of quaint interest as showing a point of view of which many people were ignorant.

If it be asked why such a publication should fall into the hands of a reviewer for a Law Journal, it must be admitted that the answer does not come quickly to the lips. But the lawyer should not spend all of his time poring over musty tomes and ancient year-books; and again it may be that the reviewer himself has a doubt upon the subject.

C. R. W.